

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated August 31, 2005, claims 1, 9, 20, 23, 25 and 26 are amended, and claims 29-34 are added. Claims 1-9 and 20-34 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

It should be noted that claim 23 is amended to provide better form by adding a semicolon and the word "and". The amended to claim 23 does not change the scope thereof.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

I. Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 20-22, 25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murata (Japanese Patent No. 10-332347) in view of Katayama et al. (USPN 6,640,004).

Claims 4, 5 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Murata (Japanese Patent No. 10-332347), Katayama et al. (USPN 6,640,004) and Matsumoto et al. (USPN 6,356,272).

II. The indication that claims 7, 9, 26 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

III. By this response:

1. Independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of objected to dependent claim 9;

2. The limitations of objected to dependent claim 7 are rewritten as new independent claims 29 including all the limitations of base claim 1;

3. Dependent claim 9 is amended to depend on new independent claim 29;

4. The limitations of dependent claims 2 and 3 are combined as new dependent claim 30, depending from new claim 29;

5. The limitations of dependent claims 4 and 5 are combined as new dependent claim 31, depending from new claim 29;

6. Independent claim 20 is amended to include the limitations of objected to dependent claim 26;

7. The limitations of objected to dependent claim 28 are rewritten as new independent claims 32 including all the limitations of base claim 20;

8. Dependent claims 25 and 26 are amended to depend on new independent claim 32;

9. The limitations of dependent claims 21 and 22 are combined as new dependent claim 33, depending from new claim 32; and

10. The limitations of dependent claims 23 and 24 are combined as new dependent claim 34, depending from new claim 32.

Since amended independent claim 1 includes the limitations of objected to dependent claim 9, amended independent claim 20 includes the limitations of objected to dependent claim 26, new independent claim 29 is a combination of claim 1 and objected to dependent claim 7, and new independent claim 32 is a combination of claim 20 and objected to dependent claim 28, claims 1 and 20, as amended, and claims 29 and 32 are believed to be allowable. Consequently, dependent claims 2-9, 21-28, 30, 31, 33 and 34, as amended, are believed to be allowable also.

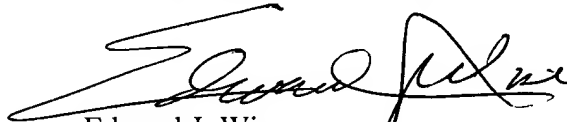
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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